

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03996 080848Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 INSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CA-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
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R 080736Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1016
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
RUMJMAAMEMBASSY MANILA 4750
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3996

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SREF, MY, SN
SUBJECT: PROPOSED KUALA LUMPUR MEETING ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REFS: (A) STATE 215855; (B) SINGAPORE 3693; (C) SINGAPORE 3882;
(D) STATE 221451

1. DCM AND POLOFF DISCUSSED PROPOSED KUALA LUMPUR MEETING
ON REFUGEES WITH AUSTRALIAN ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER
EDWARDS AND NEW ZEALAND DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER
FARRELL AT SEPTEMBER 6 LUNCH. FARRELL SAID THAT AS
NEW ZEALAND ACCEPTS ONLY SPONSORED REFUGEES, THEIR
INTEREST IN MEETING IS NOT INTENSE; HE CONFIRMED
PROBABLY REPRESENTATION FROM GNZ HIGH COMMISSION IN
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KUALA LUMPUR. EDWARDS SAID THAT GOA WOULD SEND A
STILL UNNAMED REPRESENTATIVE FROM CANBERRA, AND
CONFIRMED OUR OBSERVATIONS THAT GOS BEING VERY
CLOSE-MOUTHED ABOUT ITS PLANS FOR PARTICIPATION IN
MEETING (IF ANY).

2. SEPTEMBER 7 EDWARDS PHONED DCM TO CONFIRM

LINE HE PLANNED TO TAKE IN MEETING SAME MORNING WITH MFA POLITICAL DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA LIN CHUNG YIN TO DISCUSS KUALA LUMPUR MEETING. HE LATER PHONED US WITH GIST OF CONVERSATION. ACCORDING TO EDWARDS, LIN GAVE IMPRESSION GOS DOES NOT CONSIDER MEETING VERY IMPORTANT OR LIKELY TO PRODUCE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL BRING CONCRETE RESULTS. LIN SAID GOS WOULD PROBABLY BE REPRESENTED BY THEIR HIGH COMMISSIONER IN KUALA LUMPUR. HE ASKED IF THE SCANDINAVIANS WOULD BE REPRESENTED AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT ACCEPTING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. (COMMENT: THIS IS LINE FREQUENTLY TAKEN BY PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW.) SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, LIN ALSO SAID GOS WAS CONSULTING WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES ON LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION.

3. EDWARDS SAID HE TOLD LIN THAT AUSTRALIA WAS TRYING TO ENSURE THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE A USEFUL ONE, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIVE THINGS TO DISCUSS. HE INFORMED LIN THAT GOA WAS SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM CANBERRA, THAT HE UNDERSTOOD A FRENCH OFFICIAL WAS COMING FROM PARIS, AND (AT OUR SUGGESTION) MENTIONED THAT

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US EXPECTED TO BE REPRESENTED FROM WASHINGTON, PROBABLY BY SHEP LOWMAN. (PARIS 29493, JUST RECEIVED, INDICATES THAT EDWARDS' INFO ON FRENCH PARTICIPATION MAY BE FAULTY.)

4. EDWARDS' IMPRESSION IS THAT "INVITATION" TO KUALA LUMPUR MEETING SENT BY UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPATKUMAR (REF D) WAS RATHER OFF-HAND--IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOU MIGHT DROP BY. LIN INDICATED TO HIM THAT ONLY OTHER APPROACH TO GOS ON MEETING HAD BEEN OURS, REPORTED REF C.

5. COMMENT: HELPFUL TO HAVE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES HERE ASSUMING ACTIVE ROLE IN URGING GOS TO TAKE KUALA LUMPUR MEETING SERIOUSLY AND TO BE APPROPRIATELY REPRESENTED THERE. DESPITE OUR JOINT EFFORTS, HOWEVER, SINGAPOREANS PRETTY CLEARLY DO NOT SEE MUCH OF A ROLE FOR THEMSELVES AT KUALA LUMPUR MEETING.
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